

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 8, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # *14*: PROPOSED SKATEBOARD PARK IN
ALEXANDRIA AT LUCKETT FIELD (COUNCILMAN SPECK'S REQUEST)

This memorandum is in response to Councilman Speck's request for information on funding a proposed skateboard park in Alexandria. In the FY 2002 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), \$25,000 was budgeted to study the feasibility of creating a skateboard park in Alexandria. The Park and Recreation Commission formed a focus group to review various options regarding the proposed skateboard park. The focus group consisted of two members of the Park and Recreation Commission, several young skaters and their parents, and staff from the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities.

The objective of the focus group was to examine the demand for a skateboard park, identify a possible location, and provide a cost analysis. The group also looked at issues related to size, safety, and operational procedures. Five meetings were held between November 2000 and April 2001. After conducting an inventory of potential sites in the City, three sites were identified for further analysis: 1) Lockett Field; 2) Four Mile Run; and 3) Chinguapin Park. The focus group identified Lockett Field as the preferred site because of its central location in a non-residential neighborhood, its size, and its parking and lighting options.

On February 17, 2002, the Park and Recreation Commission hosted a public information meeting to solicit feedback on the proposed skate park. More than 50 youth and parents attended the meeting, expressing overwhelming support for a skateboard park at the Lockett Field location. Several issues were raised by the participants, including surface material to be used (concrete vs. asphalt), types of apparatus, allowed uses (skate boards, inline skates, BMX bikes), whether the park will be supervised, whether a fee will be charged, and potential liabilities. Staff continue to examine these issues.

The cost to build a 10,000 square foot skate park at Luckett Field would be approximately \$225,000, as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
ADA Access	\$25,000
Groundwork Design	\$25,000
Equipment	\$65,000
Shipping & Installation	\$15,000
Asphalt Paving/Surface Treatment	\$60,000
Fence Installation	\$12,000
Chesapeake Bay Act Requirements	\$13,000
Misc. Site Work	\$10,000
Total Cost	\$225,000

The Park and Recreation Commission has suggested a funding plan that would have costs shared by the City and individuals and/or organizations that support the skateboard park. A meeting has been scheduled for April 10 for interested parents and other citizens to discuss the potential creation of a "Skate Park Friends" group that would seek donations and develop other fund raising efforts with the goal of raising \$100,000 toward the skateboard park. Without the addition of new capital funding, the remainder is proposed by Recreation to be funded from the planned recreation center renovations CIP account, funded at \$250,000 each year.

Skateboard park projects are in the planning stages in Arlington and Fairfax Counties as well. Fairfax County is planning to open a 25,000 square foot skateboard park at Wakefield Park in Burke in December 2002. The estimated cost of this project is \$287,000, which will be financed through a 1998 park bond program. Arlington County is planning a skate park to be developed within a larger park with a goal of opening in late 2002. Arlington County is estimating a cost of \$300,000 for the skate park, which will be approximately 12,800 square feet.

cc: Mark Jinks, CMO
 Gene Swearingen, OMB
 Sandra Whitmore, Recreation
 Brian Albright, Recreation
 Alfred Coleman, OMB
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